United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Addressing two-day Security Council discussion on Bosnia and Herzegovina, representative of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) condemns NATO decision to use air strikes in Bosnia and Herzegovina; most speakers welcome NATO ultimatum.

+ Second and final consignment of highly-enriched uranium is taken from Iraq to Russia, according to IAEA and Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, completing process of removing Iraq's declared stocks of nuclear-weapons-grade material.

+ Leaders of two communities in Cyprus agree to enter into intensive discussions with representatives of Secretary-General beginning on Thursday, to ensure effective implementation of confidence-building measures regarding Varosha and Nicosia International Airports.

+ Special Advisor to Secretary-General for Public Policy says preparations are under way to promote global commemoration in 1995 of 50th anniversary of United Nations; expects $10 million to be raised for Anniversary trust fund.

+ International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia reports that at session just ended in The Hague, Judges approved draft Rules of Procedure and Evidence, adopting adversarial rather than the inquisitorial approach; hearings expected to begin in mid-1994.

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Addressing the Security Council this morning as it continued to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) condemned the decision by the Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to use air strikes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Responding to statements by earlier speakers welcoming the NATO ultimatum, he said some countries had placed blame for the 5 February massacre of civilians in Sarajevo on the Serbs, but the United Nations Protection Force

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(UNPROFOR) had not been able to determine which side was responsible for the attack. Those countries, he said, were obviously looking for a pretext for military intervention.

The only possible solution to the crisis was an overall political settlement to be reached by the three constituent peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said. The Bosnian Serbs and Croats were ready to sign the peace package, but the Bosnian Muslims had opted for the continuation of war and were advancing new conditions in order to obstruct the peace agreement.

The representative of Slovenia praised the NATO decision on air strikes, stating that diplomacy without strength was fruitless when confronted with the forces of aggression. He added that the tragedy of Bosnia and Herzegovina was the most dramatic aspect of a broader security problem in the area. "Let us not forget that concentration of arms and armed personnel in the territories of immediate neighbours of Bosnia and Herzegovina represents in itself a problem for international peace and security," he said.

The two-day discussion, which began yesterday morning, was convened in response to urgent requests from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan and the Russian Federation. As stated at the outset by the Council President, Roble Olhaye (Djibouti), no resolution was put forward during the meeting.

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A second and final consignment of highly-enriched uranium (HEU) in the form of irradiated nuclear fuel was removed from Iraq on 12 February, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Special Commission dealing with the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The removal completed the process of transferring Iraq's declared stocks of nuclear-weapons-grade material from the country.

The IAEA, with the assistance and cooperation of the Special Commission, was charged under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) with the removal of all of Iraq's nuclear-weapons-grade material, that is, HEU and plutonium. The country's separated plutonium was removed from Iraq by the IAEA in 1991. Apart from this, kilogram quantities of highly enriched uranium in the form of nuclear reactor fuel, some fresh and some irradiated, were in Iraq's declared inventory that was under IAEA safeguards. The fresh fuel was removed to Russia in 1991, and the irradiated fuel was removed to Russia on 4 December 1993, and the remainder this past Saturday.

After dilution to lower enrichment at the Chelyabinsk facility, the residual materials will be available for sale under the supervision of the IAEA for use in peaceful nuclear activities. Reprocessing of the fuel is expected to take 6 months.

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The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus have agreed to enter into intesive discussions with representatives of the Secretary-General beginning

on Thursday, to ensure the prompt and effective implementation of the package of confidence-building measures he proposed with regard to Varosha and Nicosia International Airports. According to a United Nations spokesman, their goal is to reach a common understanding on the implementation of the key issues, including the timetable for United Nations administration of of the affected airport areas; a schedule for the reopening of Nicosia Airport; arrangements for making the fenced area of Varosha a special zone for bicommunal contact and commerce; and at Nicosia Airport, traffic rights of airlines, the safe operation of the airport and the free movement of people and goods.

The spokesman said that after having heard the views of the two sides on the above issues, the representatives of the Secretary-General would prepare a note on each issue as a basis for discussion with the two leaders. Other matters related to the implementation of the package would be worked out by the United Nations, with the advice and assistance of the two sides.

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Gillian Martin Sorenson, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, said this morning that preparations were under way to promote global commemoration in 1995 of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Charter coming into force on 24 October 1945. Addressing the Preparatory Committee for the Anniversary, she said arrangements were being made to ensure as much media coverage as possible, in addition to education programmes and international media events.

Ms. Sorenson said that related conferences were taking place and that many Member States had already created national committees for the anniversary. Although no funds had been allocated for anniversary-related activities from the United Nations regular budget, a trust fund had been established and some $750,000 had already been placed into it. She said she expected that nearly $10 million would eventually be raised.

The Preparatory Committee this morning also considered the possibility of holding a summit to commemorate the anniversary, and what its implications would be for the general debate of the General Assembly that year. Speakers stressed the need to coordinate the two events, to save their Heads of State or Government having to travel to New York twice in a short space of time.

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The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, at its second session, held in The Hague from 17 January to 11 February, the Judges prepared and approved the draft Rules of Procedure and Evidence. According to the Tribunal, given the limited precedent value of the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials, they took into consideration the major legal systems of the world and adopted a largely adversarial approach in the Rules, rather than the inquisitorial approach.

The Rules place a strong emphasis on the obligation of States to cooperate with the Tribunal and to take whatever steps may be necessary to

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comply with its orders. This includes the enactment of national legislation where necessary to remove any impediment to the surrender or extradition of suspects or accused. In cases of inaction or refusal to cooperate, the Tribunal will report the matter to the Security Council.

Subject to the scheduling of sessions of the Trial Chambers for cases to be brought before them by the Prosecutor, the future plenary meetings of the Tribunal have been rescheduled for 25 April to 13 May and 18 to 28 July. Hearings will begin as soon as the Prosecutor has completed pre-trial investigations pursuant to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, hopefully in mid-1994.

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